

Message Text

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ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W

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FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4946

S E C R E T LUSAKA 0330

NODIS

DEPT PLEASE PASS LONDON AND DAR FOR YOUNG

E.O. 11652: XGDS-2

TAGS: PINR, RH,

SUBJ: NKOMO'S VIEWS

1. BRITISH BUSINESS MAN WHO IS CLOSE CONTACT AND HAS
ACTED AS NEGOTIATOR BETWEEN ZAMBIA AND RHODESIA IN PAST
DISCUSSED CURRENT RHODESIAN SITUATION WEDNESDAY NIGHT
AND AGAIN EARLY THURSDAY MORNING WITH JOSHUA NKOMO PRIOR
TO THE LATTER'S DEPARTURE FOR MAPUTO. NKOMO'S MOOD
WAS SERIOUS BUT CONFIDENT. THERE MAY HAVE BEEN SOME
HYPERBOLE IN THE VIEWS HE EXPRESSED (PARTICULARLY B AND F
BELOW) BUT, FOR THE MOST PART, THEY WERE SINCERELY PRESENTED.
THE FOLLOWING WERE THE POINTS MADE BY NKOMO:

- A. HE WAS CONVINCED THAT NEW DISCUSSIONS WOULD BE
UNDERTAKEN AGAIN SOON WITH THE RHODESIANS AND THAT THERE
WOULD BE A SETTLEMENT BY THE END OF THE YEAR.
- B. NEGOTIATION WAS NO LONGER POSSIBLE WITH IAN SMITH. NO
BASIS OF TRUST REMAINED WHATSOEVER. NKOMO SAID THE SAME
GOES FOR DAVID SMITH AND THE REST OF HIS GROUP.
- C. THE BRITISH STILL HAVE A ROLE TO PLAY BUT IVOR RICHARD
CAN NO LONGER BE INVOLVED. RICHARD ANGERED NKOMO AND OTHERS
BY HIS BEHAVIOR IN LUSAKA (PRESUMABLY DURING THE SECOND

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- VISIT ON JANUARY 9). HE MADE A SERIOUS MISTAKE BY HIS IMPULSIVE,
UNILATERAL ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE POSTPONEMENT OF GENEVA CONFERENCE.
- D. NKOMO IMPLIED THAT NO SOLUTION WAS POSSIBLE WHICH DID NOT
ASSURE THE PATRIOTIC FRONT OF CONTROL OF THE SITUATION.
- E. NKOMO SPOKE AS THOUGH THE PATRIOTIC FRONT WERE A SOLID
ORGANIZATION WHICH HE INTENDED TO CONTINUE USING. HE
SPOKE HIGHLY OF MUGABE AS A MAN OF ABILITY AND DEDICATION

AND SAID HE DID NOT UNDERSTAND WHY THE RHODESIANS FELT
SO NEGATIVELY ABOUT HIM.

F. THROWN IN AT THE END WAS THE STATEMENT THAT THE
SIMPLEST WAY TO RESOLVE IT WAS TO RESORT TO FORCE.

2. NKOMO GAVE THE IMPRESSION THAT HE DID NOT INTEND TO
RETURN TO RHODESIA UNTIL A SETTLEMENT HAD BEEN REACHED.
EMBASSY CONTACT WILL SEE NKOMO AGAIN IN TEN DAYS WHEN THE
LATTER IS DUE TO RETURN TO LUSAKA AFTER TRAVELING THROUGH
AFRICA.

3. CONTACT SAID THAT AFTER SEEING ME HE PLANNED TO PASS THE
SAME INFORMATION TO BRITISH HICOM MILES AND THEN DISCUSS WITH
MARK CHONA BEFORE CONSIDERING WHETHER TO GO TO RHODESIA TO
DISCUSS THE SITUATION. LOW

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